कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) से (ख) राज्य के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में माहशीर प्रजाति के विकास की संभावना को देखते हुए पौड़ी गढ़वाल में माहशीर हैचरी की स्थापना के लिए अगस्त, 1995 में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ था। इस मंत्रालय की सिफारिश के आधार पर, राज्य सरकार ने वर्ष 1996-97 की अपनी वार्षिक योजना में माहशीर के संबंध में एक योजना शामिल की थी। राज्य सरकार ने पौड़ी गढ़वाल में एक जगह का चयन भी कर लिया था तथा हैचरी निर्माण के लिए 16.48 लाख रुपए जारी किये थे। इसके अलावा, नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान क्रियान्वयन के लिए माहशीर मात्स्यकी विकास की योजना कार्यक्रम में शामिल किया गया है।

Access of Farmers to internet

4017. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had recently announced in Hyderabad that fanners would have access to Internet;

(b) whether the ICAR has conducted any survey to identify those farmers who have access and knowledge of computers and Internet;

(c) if so, what is the estimated number of fanners who would be surfing their computers for information on agriculture developments;

(d) whether ICAR would formulate more such schemes in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. ICAR proposes connectivity of KVKs under the ninth plan as well as under NATP through which networking would be accomplished for information dissemination to the farmers to be trained in these KVKs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) ICAR has formulated schemes to provide computer and Networking equipment for Internet access under NATP to 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATIC) and S3 Zonal Research Stations (ZRS) which are also performing functions of KVKs, in phased manners. Twenty four KVKs, are located in 24 ATMA districts located in six states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Orissa. Electronic connectivity to research and extension centres is envisaged under NATP at an estimated outlay of Rs. 90.0 crores, as well as, under the 9th plan for which detailed proposals are being worked out.

Integrated Pest Management in Andhra Pradesh

4018. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR has concluded that Integrarted Pest Management (IPM) in Andhra Pradesh was not upto the mark;

(b) if so, what was the means used by ICAR to assess and arrive at this conclusion about IPM;

(c) whether ICAR has proposed any changes in the present system; and

(d) the details of ICAR's plan for improving Integrated Pest Management in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR had constituted a high level committee to investigate the causes of crop failures, particularly cotton in Andhra Pradesh. The Committee after visiting the affected areas and interacting with farmers and developmental officers had in its report observed that the fanners do not seem to be aware of any IPM methods and their knowledge is limited in most cases to use of pesticides only.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ICAR committee in its report has suggested both short and long time IPM measures for management of pests of cotton. These include, setting up of a state level committee for regular pest monitoring, timely availability of quality inputs such as bioagents and biopesticides, stringent quality control for chemicals, training programmes and provision